

IN THE CLAIMS

Please consider the claims as follows:

1.

(Currently amended) A method for providing a custom interactive program guide (custom-IPG), the method comprising:

receiving selections indicative of a set of channels to be included in the custom-IPG;

rendering one or more custom-IPG screens, at a head end, having included therein the set of selected channels; and

receiving a request to view a custom-IPG screen on a particular channel;

overlaying the custom-IPG screen on a video sequence being provided on the particular channel to generate a modified video sequence having included therein the custom-IPG; and

providing the modified video sequence on the particular channel from the head end.

~~providing the one or more rendered custom-IPG screens from the head end upon receiving a request for the custom-IPG.~~

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2_1, further comprising:

receiving a command indicative of a particular location at which to overlay the one or more custom-IPG screens;

re-rendering the one or more custom-IPG screens at the particular location indicated by the received command; and

providing the one or more re-rendered custom-IPG screens from the head end.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2-1, wherein the custom-IPG is provided concurrent with at least a portion of the video sequence being played on the particular channel.
5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2-1, wherein the particular channel is a channel currently being viewed.
6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2-1, wherein the particular channel is a channel used to carry regular program guide (regular IPG).
7. (original) The method of claim 2-1, further comprising:
receiving a request to turn off the custom-IPG; and
providing the video sequence on the particular channel without the custom-IPG.
8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the custom-IPG is provided on a channel that is independent of channels used to carry regular programming and program guide.
9. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving a request indicating a selection for either the custom-IPG or a regular IPG on a particular channel; and
depending on the received request, providing either the custom-IPG or the regular IPG on the particular channel.
10. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein each of the one or more custom-IPG screens is formed as a subset of a regular IPG screen.
11. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the custom-IPG is rendered and stored at the head end.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the custom-IPG is stored as part of a profile for a particular viewer.

13. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the custom-IPG is dynamically modified and re-rendered at the head end.

14. (Currently amended) A method for creating a custom interactive program guide (custom-IPG), the method comprising:

activating a program guide customization process;

receiving a pop-up menu provided to assist in the customization process;

selecting a channel on which to receive the custom-IPG;

selecting a set of channels to be included in the custom-IPG; and

receiving on the selected channel ~~one or more rendered~~ a custom-IPG screen[[s]] having included therein the set of selected channels, wherein the one or more custom-IPG screens are rendered at a head end.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

indicating a particular arrangement for the selected channels, and

wherein the ~~one or more rendered custom-IPG screen[[s]] have included~~ therein has the selected channels in the indicated arrangement.

16. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the activating is achieved by highlighting a particular object provided on a regular IPG screen.

17. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the activating is achieved by a key depression on a remote control unit.

18. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the pop-up menu is generated at a head end.

19. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the pop-up menu is overlaid on a current screen being viewed.

20. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the selecting is achieved by highlighting objects rendered in the pop-up menu.

21. (Currently amended) A system for providing a custom interactive program guide (custom-IPG), comprising:

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a video session manager operative to receive selections indicative of a set of channels to be included in the custom-IPG and to receive a selected channel on which to receive the custom-IPG;

at least one video encoder operatively coupled to the video session manager and configured to render and encode one or more custom-IPG screens having included therein the set of selected channels;

a transport multiplexer coupled to the video encoder and operative to receive the one or more encoded custom-IPG screens and generate a transport stream; and

a modulator coupled to the transport multiplexer and operative to receive the transport stream and generate an output signal suitable for transmission on the selected channel, and

wherein the one or more custom-IPG screens are provided on the output signal upon receiving a request for the custom-IPG.

22. (Currently amended) A set top terminal (STT) for providing a custom interactive program guide (custom-IPG), comprising

a demodulator operative to receive a modulated signal and generate a transport stream;

a transport de-multiplexer coupled to the demodulator and operative to receive and process the transport stream to provide one or more encoded custom-IPG screens on a selected channel; and

at least one video decoder coupled to the transport de-multiplexer and operative to receive and decode the one or more encoded custom-IPG screens to provide an output video sequence, and

wherein the one or more custom-IPG screens are rendered at a head end and sent to the STT on the selected channel upon receiving a request for the custom-IPG.

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